



TORCHLIGHT ACADEMY

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Superintendent: Dr. Cynthia McQueen

Elementary School Principal: Dr. Adonis Blue

Middle School Principal: Dr. Melvin Wallace

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Great News!! Torchlight Academy will be offering two options for grades K to 8 students this school year!!! (2020-2021). Virtual Torchlight Academy which is 100% online and Torchlight will also be offering SOME in-person/ in the building instruction (waiting for policy directives from the Governor). You can choose which option you prefer for your child(ren). You are allowed to change your minds at any time throughout the year and switch to the other option.

Parents who choose fully online instruction will remain enrolled at Torchlight Academy. There is no enrollment application for choosing virtual. If you want virtual instruction, please email your name, email address, telephone number, student(s) name(s) and 2020-2021 grade(s) also if you need technology. **Email to: Torchlightvirtual@tlaedu.org.**

- Students will experience a daily school schedule that includes the same components of the school day as their grade level peers participating in face-to-face or blended instruction to the degree feasible.
- Torchlight's staff will make meaningful connections and create a true classroom community.
- Grading structures will be consistent with in-person and blended instruction environments.
- Students and families will have support from Torchlight Academy Help Desk for technology assistance.

Torchlight Academy FAQs:

On which calendar(s) will the Virtual Academy operate?

Tentative start date is August 17, 2020. However, the date may change after the Governor's announcement sometime this week.

Will special services be provided virtually, too?

Yes. Specialized services such as IEPs, LEP, ESL, 504, Intervention and AIG.

What will Torchlight Virtual Academy school day be like? Will my child's schedule be similar to that as if they were in the building?

Parents can expect that students will have some learning experiences for which they will need to be in attendance and attentive during specific hours of the day. However, students will also have flexibility to work at their own pace and schedule over the course of the day depending on family needs. Consistent daily schedules will include online instruction that will be a combination of live and recorded sessions. During instructional time, there will be opportunities to learn individually, in small groups, and in large groups using both print and digital materials. Social and emotional wellness will be taken into consideration in scheduling. Our intent is to align the Virtual Academy student experience with the online instruction experience of students who are participating in Plan B.

How much time will a student be expected to spend in front of a computer? Will the schedule/routine be the same every-day?

The amount of time a student will spend in front of a device will depend on the age of the student and which courses they are taking. There will be ample time for independent learning activities and breaks, including lunch and time for physical and other activities, built into the schedule.

What are the expectations of a parent or guardian regarding ensuring their child is participating appropriately and effectively in virtual learning?

Students will need varying levels of support in online instruction. Typically, younger students need closer supervision and assistance. This might come from a parent, guardian, grandparent, older sibling or other members of a child's support system. We will work with families to ensure that they have the support they need for a successful experience.

How is actual teaching going to be handled when a child is doing remote learning?

There will be a combination of actual live sessions and recorded sessions. There also will be opportunities for independent practices and activities that are not completed using a device. These will be based on several factors, including subject area, age/grade level and more.

How is technology going to be handled? Will students get laptops/wifi if they don't have access?

Parents can send us an email to: Torchlightvirtual@tlaedu.org. Parents can indicate whether their students need devices and access. We will be working to help meet those needs as we receive notification.

Will all courses offered in school be also offered in the Torchlight Virtual Academy?

Yes

If I choose Torchlight Virtual Academy, am I committed to continuing online learning in 2021-2022?

No, you are not committed.

If we start in the building, can we switch to Virtual Academy at any time?

Yes, you can switch to Torchlight virtual anytime.

If I don't choose Torchlight Academy Virtual now, can I change my mind later to participate.

Yes, you can change your mind anytime.

If you have any questions, please email: Torchlightvirtual@tlaedu.org. We will also send additional information as soon as they become available.

Thank you,

Torchlight Academy Administration Team.